

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Franklinville Cotton Factory

AND/OR COMMON

Belko Corporation

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

11935 Jericho Road.

CITY, TOWN

Franklinville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2d

STATE

MD

COUNTY

Baltimore Co.

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

N/A

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

☒ INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Belko Corp.

Telephone #: 301-592-9191

STREET & NUMBER

11935 Jericho Road

CITY, TOWN

Franklinville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 21087

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #:

5014

Folio #:

104

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

MD 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None. The adjoining village was surveyed by Goucher students in 1983.

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-2408

CONDITION**CHECK ONE****CHECK ONE**☐ EXCELLENT☐ DETERIORATED☐ UNALTERED☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ GOOD☐ RUINS☒ ALTERED☐ MOVED

DATE _____

☒ FAIR☐ UNEXPOSED**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Franklinville Factory was built as two stories of brick, 28 bays in length when depicted in 1942 by a Baltimore news photographer. It was a fairly simple building when designed by its owner in 1883, a "modern" and functional, largely undecorated structure built for maximum open floor space and good natural lighting. The original dimensions were 46 by 166 feet. 1

The roofing is gabled at a very low pitch. Windows were originally 9-over-9 double-hung sash types. The building was extended in 1895. 2 The 1918 tax ledger gave dimensions as 47 by 203 feet. 3

The building looked much the same in the 1915 auction catalog and in the 1942 newspaper photos. Mr. William F. Barton in 1989 still possessed a zinc-plate engraving mounted on a wood block from which the 1916 photo had been reused in a hand bill offering the property at a later sale. This engraving was printed for the author by the Jeffersonian pressman using a now obsolete proof press. 4

Photos show the only decorative features as exposed rafters and prominent lintels over the windows. The building was topped by a small cupola used for the traditional mill bell. After 1954, the Belko Corporation began to add wings and add-on extensions necessary to their manufacturing operations. By the 1970s, the only facade that showed the original brickwork and window pattern was the northern or long dimension along the Little Gunpowder Falls. The cupola can be seen from the river bank or by going into the company town street, Woodberry Place.

NOTES:

1. "The Franklinville Mills," Maryland Journal, Towson, October 13, 1883.
2. "Extensive Improvements at a Factory," Baltimore County Union, Towson, May 5, 1895.
3. Baltimore County Tax Ledger, 1918, Districts 10-11, folio 722.
4. "Franklinville Appears Sleepy--But It Isn't," Baltimore Evening Sun, November 27, 1942. Also, Samuel T. Freeman & Co., Liquidation Sale, The Laurel Mills, The Mt. Washington Mills, The Phoenix Mills, The Franklinville Mills, All Near Baltimore, Md. (Philadelphia, 1915).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-2408

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1883-1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Robert Wilson & Sons, builders
Albert A. Blakeney, A.C., arch.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original Franklinville Factory built in 1827 was destroyed by fire on November 10, 1881, when owned by Mrs. Arianna Loney of Baltimore; it was then under lease to Albert A. Blakeney. ¹ Blakeney later purchased the property in partnership with Andrew D. Jones. ² Blakeney designed a new brick factory for spinning cotton canvas or duck. ³

Construction was reported to be going on slowly in the autumn of 1883, but the walls were expected to be under roof by winter. ⁴ The contractors were Robert Wilson & Son of Ellicott City. A boiler house was built in 1895 utilizing the rubble from Jericho Factory just upstream. ⁵

Blakeney was both entrepreneur and public official, being elected county commissioner a number of times and serving in the U.S. Congress for one term, 1901-1903.

At the time when American duck manufacturers were forming a national trust or conglomerate, Blakeney and Jones sold out in 1899:

County Commissioner Blakeney has sold his mill at Franklinville, 11th district, to the cotton duck combine, which has also purchased other property of the same kind in Maryland. Mr. Blakeney built his mill 16 years ago and was his own architect, planning and superintending the erection of the building as well as all the machinery. It has proven a successful business enterprise and no doubt Mr. Blakeney parts with the mill with no little reluctance. ⁶

The following month, the city paper reported that the partners had received \$50,000 for the works, which included an entire village. ⁷

The United States Cotton Duck Company closed Franklinville and other small mills in 1903. ⁸ The cotton duck trust had been formed with high hopes of cornering the canvas market but by 1915 had come apart without any anti-trust action by the Federal government. In 1915, the Mount Vernon-Woodberry Mills, Inc., had title to the mill and attempted to sell it and other less efficient units; Franklinville was one of the plants offered in an auction catalog. ⁹

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

It took ten years to sell Franklinville, and the purchaser, Oak Tire and Rubber Company, was unable to pay its mortgage to Mount Vernon Mills and the property reverted to the textile company. 10

In 1930, Mount Vernon began to sell the houses to individuals, and in 1931, William T. Barton purchased the mill and manager's mansion. 11 At one point the Reifschneider company manufactured piston rings there but by 1942 when the Evening Sun reported on the "sleepy" looking town, the mill was idle and the citizens hoped some war industry would settle there. The feature story, fortunately unsigned, angered the long term residents by describing them as bumpkins. 12

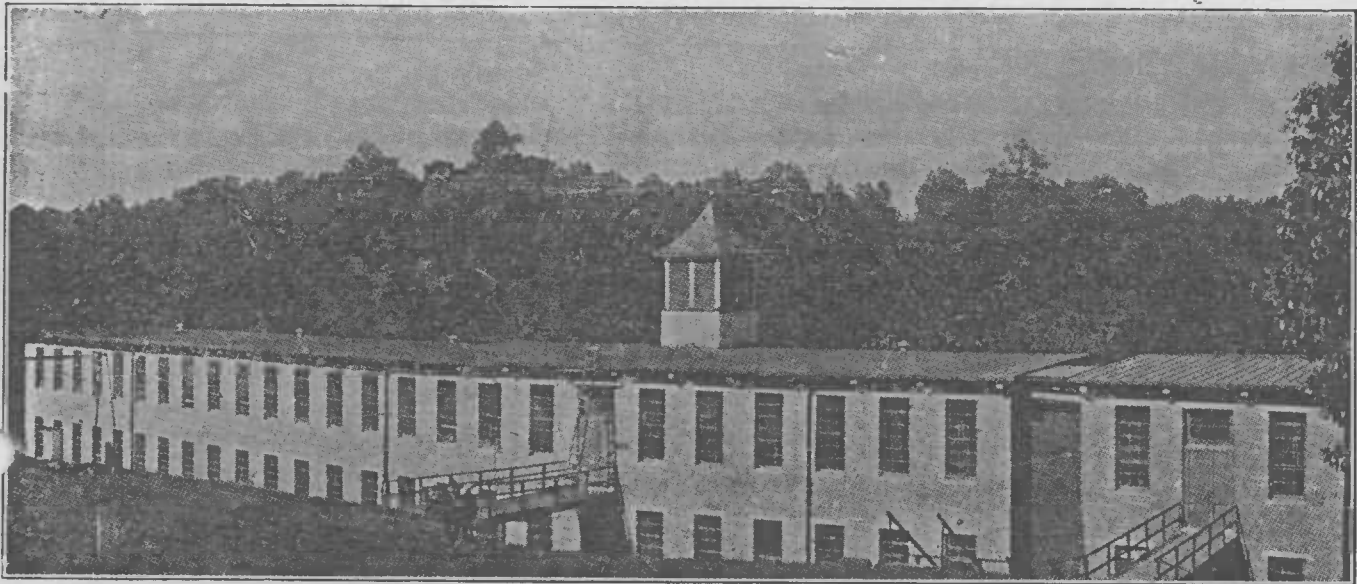
The article was still remembered in 1976 by May Rinkers, relative of the Bartons, and in 1983, Mrs. Ruth Leedy was still indignant and listed the number of villagers who could play piano and organ and named persons who had degrees and diplomas. 13

In November 1945, shortly after the end of World War II, Barton sold the factory to some investors who conveyed to Franklinville Industries; the mill was reopened trading as Dorfman Plastics to exploit the newly available substances, but there was much to learn about plastics, and both management and workers had difficulty making the raw material take the desired forms: barbershop signs, toy pianos, and other items. The factory closed again. In 1954, the Belko Corporation acquired title to the factory and continues to manufacture rubber belting products for industry. 14

NOTES:

1. Baltimore County Union, Towson, November 19, 1881.
2. Baltimore County Deeds, WMI 134:469.
3. Baltimore County Union, September 9, 1899.
4. Baltimore County Union, September 8, 15, 1883.
5. Baltimore County Union, June 29, 1895.
6. Baltimore County Union, September 9, 1899.
7. Baltimore Sun, October 30, 1899. Baltimore County Deeds, NBM 241:43.
8. Maryland Journal, Towson, May 9, 1903.
9. Sun, June 25, 1915, p. 13.
10. Baltimore County Deeds 808:230. Judicial Records, WMN 338:167, advertisement of 1928 offering mill and 20 dwellings.
11. Baltimore County Deeds, LMCLM 870:221.
12. Baltimore Evening Sun, November 27, 1942, "Franklinville Appears Sleepy-- But It Isn't."
13. Author's interviews with May Rinkers, 1976, and Ruth Leedy, 1983; also William F. Barton, nephew of former owner, 1987.

14. Baltimore County Deeds, RJS 1387:523; RJS 1414:136. Judicial Records, TBS 536:319 (1948). Distress sale advertisement, Jeffersonian, Towson, September 17, 1948. Deed to Belko Corporation (1957). 5071:101.



1915 Photo from surviving zinc engraving owned by William F. Barton

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Franklinville Mills," Maryland Journal, Towson, October 13, 1883, p. 3.
 John W. McGrain, Pig Iron and Cotton Duck, Vol. 2 (forthcoming, 1989-90).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded by Jericho Road on south; Little Gunpowder Falls on north; by private homes in former mill village on the east; by State Park property on west. See Tax Map 55, Parcel P49. Also, layout of town, 1930, Plat Book LMcLM 9:65.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

N/A

COUNTY

North or river frontage borders
 Harford County.

STATE

N/A

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John McGrain, Planner II

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning

DATE

July 7, 1989

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

301-887-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

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